



Southern Regional Office (SRO)  
400 W. Congress, Suite 433, Tucson, AZ 85701

**DRAFT Minutes of the  
Shannon Road/El Camino del Cerro Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF)  
Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting – 16th Meeting**

August 6, 2003, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Nanini Library, 7300 N. Shannon Road, Tucson, Arizona

W-10000.6.6.2

CAB Members Present: Susan Bjerke, Gary Burchard, James Eigel, Terri Hutts, Fran LaSala, Bob Ornelas, Gary Pitman, Eleanor Towne

CAB Members Absent: Chris North, Al Pesqueira

ADEQ Staff Present: Michael Romero, Project Manager; Melissa Hayes, Community Involvement Coordinator

Members of the Public Present: Mike Block, Chris Hill, A. Roniw

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The meeting began at 6:05 p.m.

**1. Call to Order/Introductions**

Gary Pitman, CAB co-chair, welcomed members and conducted introductions. Each of the CAB members then briefly introduced themselves.

**2. Approval of Minutes – 1/29/03 and 5/7/03**

Melissa Hayes said that she revised page 3 of the 1/29/03 minutes, directly from the tape of the meeting. Ellie Towne motioned to approve the 1/29/03 minutes; Gary Burchard seconded the motion. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed. Gary Burchard motioned to approve the 5/7/03 minutes; Gary Pitman seconded the motion. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed.

**3. Discussion and Vote on New Member Application: Lonny Davis**

Gary Pitman said that Lonny Davis told Ellie Towne that he withdrew his application for the CAB.

**4. Presentation: Metro Water/ADEQ Interim Remedial Action Contract at South Shannon Treatment System: History, Performance, Trends, Challenges and Future Direction/Q&A – Mike Block, Metro Water**

Mike Block, District Hydrologist for Metro Water, gave an overview of Metro Water's involvement with the Shannon Road-Rillito Creek WQARF Site. He said that traces of PCE were first detected in the South Shannon well in 1993. Metro Water began a monthly monitoring program soon after, and began blending water at the South Shannon well with other supply wells in 1995 to reduce PCE levels

below detection limits. A wellhead treatment system was approved, but when concentrations of PCE exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL), use of the South Shannon well was discontinued until the system was operational. The treatment system became operational in 1997, bringing PCE concentrations to below detection levels. In 1999, ADEQ listed the Shannon Road-Rillito Creek WQARF Site on the WQARF Registry.

ADEQ began its remedial investigation of the WQARF Site in 2001. Also that year, an operation and maintenance (O & M) Reimbursement Agreement (Interim Remedial Action contract) between ADEQ and Metro Water for the wellhead treatment system was approved, with a cap of \$35,000. PCE concentrations continued to increase over time, and Metro Water and ADEQ discussed the ability of the treatment system to remove the contaminants. In 2003, ADEQ approved funding for Metro Water to perform a study evaluating treatment system modifications. ADEQ also installed a sentinel well between the South Shannon and DeConcini wells, and found no detections of volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

Mike Block then gave details about the South Shannon treatment system, and explained the effects of increased contaminant levels on the system. He said that Ellie Towne, Terri Hutts and Jim Eigel visited the system. He said that VOC levels have increased above the treatment system capacity. The current system vents to the atmosphere, far below air quality permit limits. He also gave some background on the O & M Agreement, which covers certain analytical, electrical and labor costs. He then explained the modification study, and said that three modification options were proposed: replace existing aeration system with a new robust aeration system; use the existing aeration system, plus add on granular activated carbon; or replace the existing aeration system with granular activated carbon units. He explained how each option would work, and the details and costs of each option.

He said that the option of replacing the existing aeration system with new aeration units was the most cost effective over time, and was selected as the treatment system modification choice. However, annual O & M costs go over the current reimbursement cap of \$35,000, so Metro Water would have to request an increase from ADEQ. Metro Water has requested that ADEQ complete a public health risk assessment since such a study was beyond the scope of the Treatment Modification Study and potential higher VOC concentrations might be an air quality concern from customers living in the vicinity of the treatment system. Metro Water asked that their Board of Directors adopt the new aeration units option, and to mail information to their customers, and they could hold a public workshop, if concern exists.

## **5. Site Investigation Update/Q&A – Michael Romero, ADEQ**

### **--Brief Discussion of History of ADEQ Activities on Wrecksperts Property**

Michael Romero said that ADEQ installed some new wells. He said that three new wells installed between Metro Water's DeConcini and South Shannon wells showed no detections of VOCs. The new well west of the South Shannon well showed no detections either. It looks like the plume of contamination has not reached that area. The W-33 well, on SAISC property, was installed about 400 feet downgradient of the "hottest well," W-24, that has historically had the highest concentrations in the area. The W-33 well showed high concentrations of contaminants in the middle interval of the well, but detections in the W-24 well have been in the shallow interval. He said that it is unusual that the contamination in the two wells was found at different intervals, given that the wells are close. Gary Burchard asked if ADEQ had identified all wells in that area; Michael Romero said that he knew of one on the Wrecksperts property that was abandoned, but it was upgradient of W-24. A well was also

installed on ADOT property near Cowtown Boots (W-34), and showed contamination in the shallow interval. Pressure transducers were installed in the new wells to measure water level fluctuations.

He then reviewed the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2003 water level maps, which show the total VOC concentrations. The direction of groundwater flow in the area is to the north/northeast. There are higher concentrations of VOCs in the shallow intervals north of Interstate 10 (I-10). This indicates that there could be an additional source of contamination in the soil vapor on the Wrecksperts property, or there could be a slug of contamination from across I-10 moving in that direction. He said that a lot of these detected contaminants are daughter products from an original source.

He said that soil flux box monitoring is being done on a portion of the former AMRI Oil facility, in the southern part of Western Trailer Park. The flux boxes were already sampled one round, and another sample was recently taken. The results will help determine if any health risks are posed by possible soil vapor contaminants that may exist on the former AMRI Oil property. He said that it doesn't look like there have been any detections of contaminants in these samples. The soil flux box monitoring on the former E.C. Winter property is being looked at as well.

ADEQ did another soil sampling round at Western Trailer Park. A tighter grid pattern of samples was taken, and the results helped characterize the extent of lead contamination that was previously detected below the surface of the soil in the vacant lot in the southeast corner of Western Trailer Park. The results will determine where ADEQ will do a small-scale removal action of the lead-contaminated soil, which will be similar to the removal that took place at the E.C. Winter property in 2001, but much more shallow and smaller in area.

Michael Romero said that the request for access to the Wrecksperts property has been elevated to ADEQ management, and the case is being made about why access is needed. The former AMRI Oil facility now includes the Wrecksperts, Western Trailer Park and Western Stucco properties. AMRI Oil operated there from the mid-1950s to 1967. He gave an overview of activities that have taken place on the Wrecksperts property. The current owners of the Wrecksperts property, which was used as a vehicle junkyard, have owned it since approximately the mid-1980s, although an audience member said that the owner did not purchase the property until the early 1990s. Around 1992, the property owner found a tar-like substance on the property, and assessments were done. Old aerial photographs show aboveground storage tanks, a trench and a reservoir for oil. A stained area on the aerial photographs is where the vacant lot in the southeast corner of Western Trailer Park now is.

ADEQ's Site Assessment Unit performed an emergency soil removal action on the Wrecksperts property in the mid-1990s. The removal action was done to address an immediate health risk that existed, because the blood lead levels in the children who lived on the property were above regulatory levels. The removal action was for lead in waste oil sludge, but other organic compounds were tested for, and not much was found. At that time, it was concluded that the contaminants were not a contributing source to groundwater contamination, but the groundwater should continue to be monitored. The lead-contaminated soil was excavated three feet in depth, the former oil trench down to six feet, and the former oil reservoir down to 13 feet. The Site Assessment Unit believed that they had excavated to the bottom of the former oil reservoir. The area was then filled in with clean soil.

ADEQ has since made attempts to contact the property owner to discuss getting site access, but the requests have been denied. ADEQ wants access to the property to assess why the W-24 well has consistently high concentrations, whether the impact to groundwater at Wrecksperts was adequately assessed, and to determine whether there is a continuing source of groundwater contamination. ADEQ did a workplan for the investigation of the Western Trailer Park area, which also includes Wrecksperts.

A CAB member asked where the Freon detections came from; Michael Romero said that they are a typical landfill gas, and the contamination to the northeast of I-10 could be tied with the landfill. However, no link can be made until the Wrecksperts property is properly assessed as a potential source. There is also a potential remaining source of groundwater contamination in the soil vapor at the E.C. Winter property. A soil vapor extraction (SVE) system could be installed on the property to remove the soil vapors, but assessments of the Wrecksperts area need to be done before installation of any system.

#### **6. CAB Discussion of Drafting Letter Regarding Access to Wrecksperts Property**

Terri Hutts said that it seems like progress is being made in trying to get access. Michael Romero said that the request will make its way to the ADEQ Director. CAB members discussed whether to wait to draft a letter and see what progress is made within ADEQ, or to draft the letter at this meeting. Gary Burchard felt that ADEQ has shown timid political will in other instances, and history has shown that when CABs are active, things get done more quickly. The CAB decided to send a letter to ADEQ thanking them for looking at the request to get access, urging them to accelerate the process, and offering the CAB's assistance if there is anything they can do.

Michael Romero said that because of the budget situation, the WQARF program is prioritizing work based on health risks, and if there are no immediate risks, the project will not be as high a priority. Gary Burchard felt that the active municipal supply well (Metro Water's South Shannon well) being affected by the contamination would be considered a risk. Michael Romero said that it is good that Metro Water installed and may upgrade the treatment system on the South Shannon well. Fran LaSala felt that Metro Water is dealing with someone else's problem, and the source of the problem needs to be addressed. Michael Romero said that the property owner wanted the guarantee of 100% cleanup, but even though a property can be cleaned up to certain remediation levels and deemed clean, it would not be 100%. He said that it is unlikely that the activities at Wrecksperts caused the contamination.

Terri motioned to table discussion of drafting a letter, and return to it after the other agenda items have been addressed; Fran LaSala seconded it. Later, it was decided to address the letter to the ADEQ Director, and copy the WQARF Advisory Board chairs, Waste Programs Division Director, Superfund Programs Section Manager, Superfund Programs Unit Manager, Southern Regional Office and the landowner. The CAB suggested language for the letter. They said that the Shannon Road/El Camino del Cerro Community Advisory Board would like to express its appreciation to ADEQ staff for accelerating the process to gain access to the Wrecksperts property. The CAB has concerns for public health because of the municipal drinking water wells being affected. As this health hazard remains, the CAB wants to expedite the process. The purpose of the access is to clarify the source by conducting environmental site investigation for contaminants potentially migrating off site. The CAB would like ADEQ management to take staff's recommendation to gain access, and wants ADEQ to move faster. Should management need the CAB's assistance, they should feel free to contact them, and management should let them know if there's anything they can do to expedite the process. The CAB also wanted to

let management know that the next CAB meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2003 if they would like to discuss the issue with the CAB.

Terri Hutts motioned that the CAB draft a letter with the above language; Ellie Towne seconded. Gary Pitman said that he would talk to Al Pesqueira about writing and mailing the letter. Melissa Hayes said that she could provide the addresses, and would send the co-chairs the text off the tape.

#### **7. Call to the Public (15 minutes)**

An audience member asked why ADEQ said that the Wrecksperts property was cleaned up after the removal action in the mid-1990s, but now needs access again, and what assurances there would be to make sure that any contamination is cleaned up. Michael Romero said that ADEQ is not saying that the property still has an immediate health risk to warrant an emergency response, but ADEQ wants to determine whether there may still be a continuing source of contamination to groundwater in the soil vapor. ADEQ is determining that the soil vapor is not affecting anyone near the site, with the investigative work that is being done in the area. An audience member asked how ADEQ would get on the property if the owner does not allow it; Michael Romero said that the issue has been elevated within ADEQ, to make that case to force the issue. The audience member asked if the property owner would be compensated for access, and Michael Romero said that it is a voluntary action by the property owner. If a cleanup was needed, ADEQ would do it, since cost recovery does not look probable. Gary Burchard said that ADEQ has the authority to enter property to address a risk. Fran LaSala said that when ADEQ did the cleanup on the property in the 1990s, it was done as an emergency response action because of the lead in the soil. More has been learned about the contamination since then, and the potential source needs to be stopped. The audience member asked when it would be considered clean; it was explained that the issue of it being cleaned is whether it could be affecting the groundwater.

#### **8. CAB Outreach Discussion**

There were no items to discuss.

#### **9. Other Administrative Business**

There were no items to discuss.

#### **10. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Discussion**

The next CAB meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 22, 2003 at the Nanini Library, large meeting room, 7300 N. Shannon Rd., Tucson, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Call Melissa Hayes, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, for meeting details and proposed agenda. Proposed agenda items include an update on access to the Wrecksperts property, and any response to the CAB's letter.

#### **11. Adjournment**

Terri Hutts motioned to adjourn the meeting; Fran LaSala seconded the motion. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

*This meeting was recorded on cassette tapes as a record of the proceedings. To listen to the tape, or for additional documents mentioned in these minutes, contact ADEQ's Southern Regional Office, Community Involvement Office, 520/628-6712.*